



Commander, 25th Marines Family Readiness Policy

The 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps Planning Guidance states that we will ensure that Marines, Sailors, and their families have availability and access to quality facilities and support programs as well as resources and benefits that provide a quality standard of living. The Marines and Sailors of 25th Marine Regiment, the individual augmentees who are sourced from our geographic area, and those who are administratively assigned under this Regiment all represent a collective group that our Family Readiness Program is responsible for. While the application of the CMC Guidance starts with the individual Marine understanding the purpose of the Family Readiness Program and identifying the family members he wishes to have access to it, the execution of this Unit's Family Readiness Program is my responsibility and I greatly appreciate Marine and family participation and feedback. I also view participation in this program as a key indicator that the Marine and his Family have truly recognized the reality of unique challenges, hardships, and opportunities of military service and the need to understand how to leverage the resources available to them.

Regardless of how we define the word *family* today, we know from experience in past mobilizations for conflict that a Marine's ability to focus on the deployed mission has a direct correlation to knowing his family has the resources they need at home and are well informed in his absence. We also know that effective Family Readiness is not a light switch that we turn on only when the unit is getting ready to mobilize. Our Commitment to Family Readiness encompasses pre-deployment, deployment and post deployment phases of every Marine's service. Each of these phases can present a unique set of challenges for the Marine and his family. There can be unanticipated maintenance problems, mental or physical health issues, financial or real estate related dilemmas, or employment benefits concerns. The good news is today there are many programs and resources to help active and reserve family members negotiate these Life Events – both big and small. Learning to leverage these resources ultimately contributes to individual and unit confidence in the ability to negotiate these Life Events and furthers the Marines ability to focus on his mission. It is my intent that the 25th Marines has a proactive Marine Corps Family Readiness Program through all phases or cycles of deployment, activation and deactivation that builds and maintains the confidence and capability of Family Readiness to always be in stride with our Operational Readiness requirements.

The message common to all Marines assigned to 25th Marines is simple: *"At some point you will be expected to deploy while you are in this unit, But at no point will you be expected to say you or your family are not ready due to issues that could be resolved with information, resources, or referral through the Unit Family Readiness Program. Seek Assistance to Meet This Expectation"*.

The ultimate responsibility to take advantage of resources to enhance readiness rests with the individual Marine, but the responsibility to ensure the Family Readiness Program is current, accessible, and proactive rests with this Commander. I encourage your feedback through our Family Readiness Command Team Representatives and the Family Readiness Officer. They are vital assistants and will reach out in a variety of ways to all members of the Command from the day they first come aboard.

I and this Command Team look forward to assisting you with an effective Unit Personal Family Readiness Program.

M. A. LESAVAGE
COLONEL, U.S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING OFFICER, 25TH MARINE REGIMENT